



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 7 2012

Miyoko Sakashita  
Center for Biological Diversity  
351 California Street #600  
San Francisco, CA 94101

Dear Ms. Sakashita,

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to thank you for your petition, dated August 22, 2012, requesting that the Agency develop water quality criteria for plastics under Section 304 of the Clean Water Act. This letter acknowledges receipt of the Center for Biological Diversity's petition.

The Center for Biological Diversity is formally requesting that the Agency (EPA) initiate a rulemaking pursuant to the Clean Water Act to address threats posed specifically by plastic pollution. This Petition requests that the EPA:

1. Establish national water quality criteria pursuant to section 304(a)(1) to address plastic pollution, and
2. Publish information pursuant to section 304(a)(2) to guide states in monitoring and preventing harm to waters from plastic pollution.

EPA will carefully consider the information contained in the petition and will provide a written response to the Center for Biological Diversity on its intended course of action. In the interim, please direct any questions or concerns regarding this petition to Kathryn Gallagher, Chief, Ecological Risk Assessment Branch at (202)564-1398.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "E. Behl", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Elizabeth Behl, Director  
Health and Ecological Criteria Division